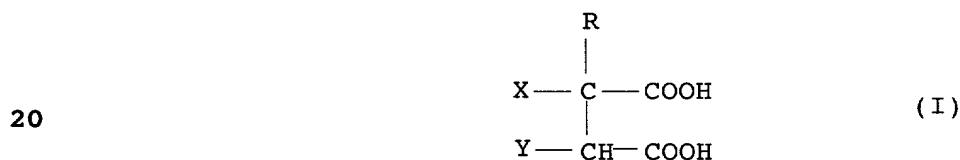


We claim

1. A method for producing moldings from finely divided materials  
5 and for sheetlike structures of fiber materials, wherein the  
finely divided material is mixed or impregnated with a  
heat-curable composition and the resultant mixture is shaped  
at temperatures above 120°C or an unconsolidated sheetlike  
10 structure of fiber materials is first treated with a  
heat-curable composition and then heated at temperatures  
above 120°C, wherein the heat-curable composition comprises:

- at least one reaction product of

- 15 i. at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I:



in which

- 25 R is hydrogen or a CH<sub>2</sub>COOH group,  
X is OH or NH<sub>2</sub> if Y is hydrogen,  
Y is OH or NH<sub>2</sub> if X is hydrogen, or  
X and Y together are a π bond,

and/or an anhydride of the polycarboxylic acid I

- 30 ii. with ammonia and, if desired

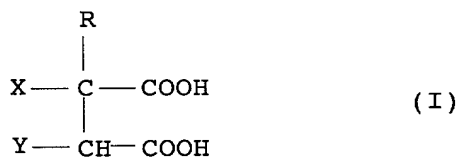
iii. with primary amines and/or compounds containing at  
least two hydroxyl groups; and/or

- 35 - a mixture of at least one polycarboxylic acid of the  
formula I and/or its anhydride and at least one substance  
which releases ammonia on heating and, if desired,  
primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two  
40 hydroxyl groups.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction  
product of the components i and ii is selected from the  
monoamides and diamides, the monoammonium and diammonium  
45 salts, and the monoamide ammonium salts of maleic acid and of  
fumaric acid.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction product is a water-soluble oligomer obtained by heating a monoamide or diamide, a monoammonium or diammonium salt or a monoamide ammonium salt of a polycarboxylic acid of the formula I.
4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition further comprises a finely divided polymer of ethylenically unsaturated monomers.
5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition further comprises at least one compound containing at least two hydroxyl groups.
6. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the binder is used in an amount of from 2% by weight to 100% by weight, based on 100% by weight of finely divided material.
7. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the heat-curable composition is used as a powder.
8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the finely divided material is used in the form of fibers, chips, slivers or particulate materials.
9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the composition is used in the form of an aqueous solution or dispersion.
10. A molding obtainable by a process as claimed in claim 1.
11. A sheetlike structure obtainable by a method as claimed in claim 1.
12. A heat-curable composition comprising
- at least one reaction product of
    - i. at least one polycarboxylic acid of the formula I:



in which

R is hydrogen or a  $\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$  group,

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- \*X is OH or NH<sub>2</sub> if Y is hydrogen,
- Y is OH or NH<sub>2</sub> if X is hydrogen, or
- \* X and Y together are a  $\pi$  bond,

5 and/or an anhydride of the polycarboxylic acid I with

ii. ammonia and, if desired

10 iii. primary amines and/or compounds containing at least  
two hydroxyl groups; and/or

15 - a mixture of at least one polycarboxylic acid of the  
formula I and/or its anhydride and at least one substance  
which releases ammonia on heating and, if desired,  
primary amines and/or compounds containing at least two  
hydroxyl groups

20 - at least one further constituent selected from finely  
divided polymers of ethylenically unsaturated monomers,  
compounds containing at least two hydroxyl groups, and  
polymeric polycarboxylic acids.

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